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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

The overlooked factor

There was something for everyone to dislike about the recent U.S. Senate hearings for Brett Kavanaugh's presidential nomination to the U. S. Supreme Court. From the first hour U.S. President Donald Trump announced Kavanaugh as his choice for the associate justice seat vacated by the retiring Anthony Kennedy, to Kavanaugh's swearing-in on Monday of this week at The White House, the grueling and distasteful (to put it mildly) process was far more than enough to revulse anyone.

The infantile behavior of so many of the people involved who had solemn and important duties was disgraceful. To witness the devious behavior of the vacuous, pseudo-earnest politicians currently occupying positions of national leadership was stomach-turning. After watching their preening, pontificating performances before the cameras, one has to wonder from whence those pompous creatures were dredged.

At the absolute bottom of the cesspool of histrionics, deceit, innuendo, and character assassination, though, had to be the accusations of sexual improprieties. The detailed descriptions for days and days of the hearings regarding perverse, inhuman conduct will be hard to forget for many people. We should all be so, so sorry for subjecting young, innocent ears to those awful stories.

There are large groups of Americans who accept the stories as factual, and equally large groups of Americans who disbelieve the stories. This commentary is not meant to come down on either side but rather to expose a thread running through this entire sordid narrative that has been almost completely overlooked under the harsh spotlights and high drama.

Alcohol. That's the factor of this scandal that has been overlooked. At the root of almost all the allegations is the use and abuse of alcohol — at some points by people too young to even be in legal possession of the drug.

Let's play Connect the Dots. Kavanaugh had no choice but to admit during the hearings that he often consumed copious amounts of alcohol as a teenager, because it was true and he was under oath. This

future jurist of the highest order was known to party hard in his youth with at least one substance he wasn't supposed to be handling. That much has been established as fact, currently much to his embarrassment.

How he came to illegally possess the alcohol was not revealed at the hearings. No one seemed to be interested, nor even surprised. Although that could be a subject for another whole commentary in this space, it bears pointing out that alcohol in all its forms flows easily into the hands of American children as it did for Brett Kavanaugh in his younger days, and we adults don't seem to be upset by that fact.

Children can neither cope with the social and behavioral consequences nor fully understand the damage they are doing to their health. Many adults can't, so how can our children? No matter. Our politicians tell us over and over the "revenue" collected from alcohol sales is out of this world and well worth the human cost.

On to the next dot. His detractors wanted to know, if the nominee is compelled to admit to one inappropriate behavior — the illegal, underage consumption of enough alcohol to pass out at times — who's to say he didn't commit those heinous acts without any recollection of the incidents? How can such behavior be ruled out if he wasn't even conscious of his actions from time to time?

On to the next dot. The nominee, his embarrassing personal failures betrayed before his wife, young children, and the entire nation, is declared by his critics to be unfit to serve on the nation's highest court. Riots ensue when his nomination is ultimately confirmed.

Again, the words printed here are not meant to be partisan or to declare winners and losers in this debacle. That would distract from the real meaning, which is that alcohol underlies so much of our world's problems that the figurative visitor from Mars would have to declare us insane when he observed how we can't get enough of it.

Alcohol is nothing more than a weapon Satan uses to sow discord, confusion, and disorder. The evil one knows from there, it's a short trip to our souls. When, o when, are we going to realize that?

Funded by CP

Editor's note: October is Cooperative Program Emphasis Month in the Southern Baptist Convention. To learn more, visit sbc.net/cp.

In November, I will celebrate 18 years pastoring the same church in Kansas City. When God called me to my church, I was a master of divinity student at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Because of my church's affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), I received a steep tuition discount funded by gifts of Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program (CP).

The benefits of our cooperative ministry soon extended beyond my studies at Midwestern.

My leadership transition was not the honeymoon for which new pastors hope. In my first two years of ministry, the director of missions of Kansas City (Kansas) Association provided a listening ear, counsel, and connections with other pastors in my area. The association's weekly Monday lunches with other pastors kept me from ditching the whole endeavor.

As our church began to grow, I initiated an increased commitment to the SBC, including CP giving. We began to attend associational meetings and support CP on a monthly basis. We started to participate in offerings for the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

Just after my third anniversary at the church, the director of missions invited me to join the association's executive board. In those meetings I began to appreciate Southern Baptist cooperation of all kinds at a deeper level. I was a part of passing budgets that helped to fund new churches, revitalize declining churches, support mission trips, and assist orphans and widows.

The last year has presented the SBC with a number of challenges. Leadership transitions and cultural shifts have pressured the SBC as much as any time period in the last 30 years. I've led our church to lean in, increasing our monthly support of the CP to ensure that the ministry benefits we have enjoyed are available to other churches as well.

Since 2013, I have taught in some capacity at Midwestern Seminary, now entering my third year as a member of the faculty. My appreciation for the CP has grown with each passing semester.



Guest opinion with Todd Chipman

When I look out at the faces in my classes or speak with students in online courses, I encounter students laboring to make ends meet while devoting themselves to their courses.

I remind them that though times are tight for them during these years of seminary, without the Cooperative Program their tuition would be far more than its current rate. For many students at Baptist colleges and seminaries, tuition costs would be out of reach if not for CP. Faculty and students enjoy comfortable and beautiful environments of study.

CP is not just about money. It is rather the financial expression of a spirit of partnership that is to characterize all believers. The description of the generosity of the Jerusalem church in Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32 rests in a broader description of church community that is antecedent to cooperation.

The same can be said about the Apostle Paul's thanks to the Philippians for their generosity (Philippians 4:1-10). Their financial support was a natural result of the partnership Paul enjoyed with that church, as he describes throughout Philippians 1-2.

From the lectern and the pulpit, I've seen CP grow as the lifeblood of new churches all over the globe. As I know I am not alone, I hope and believe that the best days of the CP are still ahead of us. In a time when the SBC is responding to challenges, I suggest that Southern Baptists find new and more frequent ways to participate in our cooperative missions and ministry.

Chipman has been the teaching pastor at The Master's Community Church (SBC) in Kansas City, Kn., since 2000, and is assistant professor of biblical studies at Midwestern Seminary. His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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LifeWay Christian Stores trying new concept



DISTINCTIVE ADDITIONS — "Stores within a store" will be opening soon inside select LifeWay Christian Stores around the country. The LifeWay store in Pineville, S.C. (above) is sporting an early version of a Proverbs 31 store within a store, while a Passion store within a store has opened at the Buford, Ga., LifeWay store. (LifeWay photos).



NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — LifeWay Christian Stores in select cities are getting new additions to their floor plans, as Proverbs 31 Ministries and Passion have teamed up with LifeWay to provide a fresh shopping experience for guests.

"We're taking a store within a store approach" with Proverbs 31 and Passion, said Faith Whatley, director of adult ministries. The "mini-stores" will have a unique look reflective of each ministry, she said.

The Proverbs 31 Ministries store features a boutique-like atmosphere accented with gold textures and greenery, while the Passion store features an urban industrial feel with mixed wood and metal textures.

The mini-stores will feature books, CDs, Bible studies, gifts and apparel tied to the ministries.

"LifeWay is excited to be the exclusive retailer for Proverbs 31 Ministries and Passion," Whatley said. "We look forward to introducing our customers to these ministries, while welcoming their audiences to our stores."

This is already the case for the LifeWay store in the Pineville, N.C., one of the first to feature a Proverbs 31 Ministries mini-store. Lysa TerKeurst of Proverbs 31 Ministries recently posted a picture of the display on her Instagram account.

"I remember walking around LifeWay stores and dreaming

about one day writing a book and seeing it tucked on one of their shelves," TerKeurst captioned the post. "Never, ever, could I have imagined having an entire Proverbs 31 Ministries section as part of their store."

"Thank you LifeWay Women for dreaming big," she wrote. "Believing in what we could not see [and] linking arms and hearts in ministry."

According to the Matthews, N.C., ministry's web site, "Proverbs 31 Ministries is a non-denominational, non-profit Christian ministry that seeks to lead women into a personal relationship with Christ, with Proverbs 31:10-31 as a guide."

TerKeurst said she's also excited about the partnership because Proverbs 31 Ministries has never had a physical store.

"Our desire is to help women and their families focus on the Word of God and make it part of their everyday lives," she said. "We know LifeWay is passionate about the same thing, which makes this partnership a perfect fit."

Louie Giglio, founder of the Passion conference movement, said he looks forward to the impact of the Passion store within a store models.

"For years, LifeWay and Passion have shared a special partnership in our mission to make available resources that lift the name of Jesus and help people

grow in their relationship with Him," Giglio said.

"We are thrilled to expand this partnership with the launch of the Passion Store in select LifeWay locations across the country. Our prayer is that this space — designed with intentionality and care — will help people connect with Jesus and see their place in His story."

LifeWay has already received positive reports about the stores within a store. "Customers are amazed at how beautiful the Proverbs 31 Ministries section is," said Wesley Caldwell, manager of the Pineville store. "I'm greeted with gasps multiple times a day as guests enter the store and see the new display."

Richard Ivester, manager of the LifeWay Store in Buford, Ga., reported similar reactions from guests to the first Passion store within a store. "The mini-store has been an instant draw with our guests."

While Mississippi's six LifeWay Christian Stores are not on the initial list for the mini-stores, LifeWay officials said all the ministry's stores will have branded destinations where customers can buy resources from both ministries.

Mississippi's LifeWay stores are located in Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, Southaven, and Tupelo. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/misslifeway.

Scientists challenge Nobel committee on evolution

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)

— The winners of this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry have been hailed by the body to award the prize as demonstrating "the power of evolution," but scientists with Answers in Genesis (AiG) and the Discovery Institute say the Nobel laureates have made no such demonstration and, in fact, have illustrated the necessity of an intelligent designer for the existence of life.

The 2018 Nobel Prize in chemistry, announced Oct. 3, was awarded to three scientists. American Frances Arnold earned half the prize for her work with "directed evolution" of enzymes, proteins that catalyze chemical reactions. American George Smith and Englishman Gregory Winter shared the other half of the prize for their use of a virus called a bacteriophage to yield proteins.

In announcing the winners, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences stated in a press release, "This year's Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have been inspired by the power of evolution and used the same principles — genetic change and selection — to develop proteins that solve

mankind's chemical problems."

The research "really has nothing to do with evolution in the sense of Darwin and the sense of going from molecules to man," said Georgia Purdom, a molecular geneticist with AiG, a young-earth creationist organization based in Petersburg, Ky.

Arnold in particular, a professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, has been noted in media reports for supposedly showing evolution's power.

After unsuccessfully trying to build new enzymes through a process called "rational design," Arnold inserted into a rapidly reproducing bacteria a gene that produces the enzyme she wanted to study. As the bacteria reproduced, it yielded different variations of the enzyme — like reproduction of two humans yields different children from the same genetic material. Arnold then chose the enzyme that worked best and repeated the process with its genetic material until she refined the enzyme for her specific purposes.

Arnold's method has been used to produce biofuels and

stain-removing enzymes in laundry detergent.

"I copied nature's inventions, this wonderful process of evolution, to breed molecules like you breed dogs and cats," Arnold said according to The New York Times.

Purdom, however, told Baptist Press that Arnold's scientific process is decidedly different from the process through which Darwinists say life emerged.

"For evolution — if you're going to go from one kind of organism to another — you have to not just make a protein work a little bit better or a little bit differently," Purdom said. "You've got to make entirely new proteins... Her work doesn't show that at all."

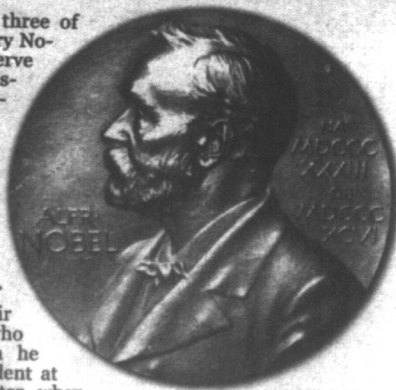
In contrast to Darwinian evolution, Purdom said, Arnold's research "has nothing to do with random chance. She's the one shifting around the parts of the DNA and making these proteins better." Additionally, for Arnold's process to work, as with development of life, "you have to have an intelligent designer."

Douglas Axe, a molecular biologist with the Discovery Institute, wrote in an Oct. 3

blog post that all three of this year's chemistry Nobel laureates deserve the prize. The Discovery Institute advocates the theory of intelligent design, which claims the universe is the product of intelligence rather than chance.

"It's also fitting that words like 'design' and 'directed' be attached to their work," wrote Axe, who knew Arnold when he was a graduate student at Cal Tech and Winter when he worked in Cambridge, England. "The truth is that by much hard work and careful thought, they accomplished what accidental processes would never accomplish on their own."

Axe wrote Arnold demonstrated "admirable candor" in a 2011 article for the journal *Current Opinion in Chemical Biology*, when she noted human efforts to generate "novel" enzymes "have primarily demonstrated that we are getting good at making bad enzymes.



Making good enzymes will require a whole new level of insight, or new methodologies altogether."

Axe concluded, "The problem these efforts face in the lab is exactly the problem faced by Darwin's evolutionary mechanism in the wild: Nothing can be selected until it already exists. The fact that some clever thing would be enormously beneficial if it existed has no power to make that thing exist."

The title of this Directions article tells the whole story. I was walking into a store that had two big sliding doors that opened automatically. Centered above the doors was a large banner that said, "Welcome," but each of the doors underneath had big red stickers at eye level that said, "Do Not Enter." Both the banner and the signs were so prominent that I stopped and backed up and thought, *what in this world are they trying to say?* The Welcome sign was about twice as large as the Do Not Enter signs. There were two Do Not Enter signs and one Welcome sign. I stood there, absorbing all the visuals, and walked on up to the doors. The doors opened, and I walked on in.

I started to go talk to an employee but I decided they were not responsible for the signs. I started to find the store manager, but I didn't have time nor interest to correct their interesting problem. I got what I came after and headed out, looking back over my shoulder at the signs that still said Welcome/Do Not Enter. I drove away thinking about what I had just seen and wondering about how many of our churches — houses of God and houses that house God's people — that seem to have the same kind of conflicting, convoluted presentation of Welcome/Do Not Enter.

It is unquestionable that God wants His house to be a house of prayer for all people and that everyone should be invited and welcomed. I am certainly aware of the fact that there are occasions where some people come to do harm and disrupt, and to those people we have to say, "You can't do that here." Thankfully, that is a rarity. The reality of the day-to-day, week-to-week presentation of the people of God should be that we are open to you, God loves you, we love you, and we're glad you've come.

The Apostle Peter writes in his first epistle: "Use hospitality one to another without grudging" (1 Pet. 4:9). Peter says we need to be hospitable and we don't need to be hospitable reluctantly, grudgingly, or uninvitingly. I sup-



With Jim Fretol, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Welcome/Do Not Enter

pose Peter had visited a store that said Welcome/Do Not Enter. Thom Rainer, retiring president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, wrote a book on helping our churches become welcoming. He, too, no doubt had experienced even in church the possibility of us being welcoming in a kind of unwelcoming way.

Why do we do that? How do we do that? For one thing, most of us (or at least some of us) have not received the word that we were elected to the welcoming committee. We've got ushers and greeters at the doors and all those kinds of things have been assigned to a few people who are bulletin hand-outers and people who are stationed in the foyers of our churches. The reality is that all of us — every last one of us — has been assigned by God to be on the welcoming committee, the hospitality committee, of our church.

I know it's not everyone's cup of tea. Some of us may not be outgoing. Some of us may not even be friendly. Some of us may not even have the capability of smiling all the time or even occasionally. Peter writes that we all are supposed to be hospitable without reluctance, without being pushed and pulled and made to do it. I have talked with some

people who actually believe that being hospitable, open, caring, and gracious to people is a spiritual gift. I seriously doubt that but most of the people who argue with me that it is, obviously do not have the gift. Whether you know it or not, as pastor or layperson, teacher or music leader, children's worker or deacon, we are to be people who create this loving environment in our churches with an open warmth and a sincere, "We're glad you're here."

Another action that keeps us from being as welcoming as we need to be is the fact that we allow unimportant distractions to ruin our hospitality. I was in a church some time ago where I met some people as I was going in who were clearly upset. They were talking about the problem, but they didn't want me to hear. As I was visiting and didn't know what I was walking into, I shook hands with them and smiled and — I must say — they were gracious and said, "We're glad to have you with us today."

As I shook hands with other people, I listened with one ear to the group that I had just left. I realized what had them all upset and what had made them appear to have the Welcome sign out with the Do Not Enter sign hanging beneath it. Someone — I didn't know who and

don't think they knew who — had cut down an old, dead tree in the church yard. The problem was that it had been there as long as they could remember. There were things that had happened out there when they were young people or when folks just gathered under the shade. The removal of a dead tree from the church yard had also removed the warm of their hospitality on that Sunday morning. That is not fictional; that is fact.

If we analyzed all the things that rob us of our hospitality, we would probably find a lot of trimmed bushes, cut trees, uncut grass, and flowers that had been cut or eaten maybe by deer. We really don't give much thought to how it upsets us and robs us of what kind of spirit we ought to have, but it does happen.

One last item I would mention to you that keeps us from being as welcoming, as hospitable, as the Lord wants us to be: We lose sight of the eternal reasons that bring us together to worship in the first place. For many of us, it's because we have met Jesus and we come to worship Him. That's a supreme thought. For others who may be gathering who do not know Jesus, we need to remember that eternity, a change in their destination forever and ever, can occur in this place at this time and we need to care for them.

As you refresh your church signs with the name of the church and maybe the pastor's name and maybe the date of the church being organized and those kinds of things, undoubtedly you put somewhere out there, Welcome. If so, don't hang those little signs around on your heart or on your face that may reflect Do Not Enter, because God has put you and me under call and commission to use hospitality without grudging toward each other. God bless you, and bless you this Sunday as you warmly welcome everyone who comes.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Accommodations open Oct. 12 for 2019 SBC meet

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Online hotel registration for the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Birmingham will open Oct. 12 instead of Oct. 1 as in previous years, the SBC Executive Committee (EC) has announced.

Registration and a list of available hotels will be accessible at 8 a.m. Central Time Oct. 12 at sbcanualmeeting.net.

Changes in hotel room availability near the meeting site, the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC), necessitate the delay, the EC said. Many rooms were to be utilized at the downtown Sheraton Hotel, where unanticipated renovations on a tower of 300 rooms will still be underway when the SBC convenes June 11-12, 2019.

Rooms at other hotels are being secured to accommodate the change, which the EC described as unavoidable. A shuttle service and parking options are also being studied to enhance attendees' convenience, Bill Townes, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention finance, told Baptist Press.

While each host city offers unique opportunities and challenges, we recognize that recently announced ongoing infrastructure upgrades in the city of Birmingham



Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center

will enhance the need to diligently examine additional parking and transportation options for attendees, including the use of shuttle buses," Townes said.

"We will be working with our local arrangements committee in Birmingham, representing Alabama Baptist church, association, and state board of mission

leaders to continue to address these issues and come up with creative solutions to assist our attendees."

Birmingham, a central southern hub, remains an optimal location for Southern Baptist participation, Townes said.

"The location of Birmingham in close proximity to many Southern Baptist

churches should result in excellent attendance," he said. "In working with dedicated Alabama Baptists on our local arrangements team and the committed staff of the Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau, our convention planning team is confident that the city of Birmingham will provide another great destination experience for our Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in 2019."

Southern and southeastern states have drawn the highest messenger attendance, according to EC data. Outside of the historic attendance of 45,519 messengers at the 1985 SBC in Dallas, cities drawing the most messengers were Atlanta in 1986 with 40,987 messengers, in 1991 with 23,465 messengers, and in 1995 with 20,654; New Orleans in 1990 with 38,403 messengers; and San Antonio in 1988 with 32,727.

The 2019 meeting marks the first time the SBC will convene in Birmingham since 1941. SBC messengers in 2014 approved Birmingham as the 2019 meeting site, according to official SBC records. The EC recommended Birmingham to messengers after also considering Indianapolis and Nashville.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 11, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MINISTRY WIVES
CONFERENCE

YOUR HOME
A PLACE OF
MINISTRY

OCTOBER 29, 2018
FBC JACKSON 5TH LEVEL

REGISTRATION:
www.tinyurl.com/2018MWC

Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development
Department at vclary@mbcb.org for more
information.

2018 YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

NOW IS THE TIME

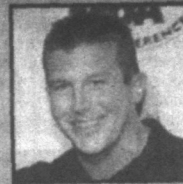
DECEMBER 27-28, 2018 • MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE



JASON CURRY
Speaker



BROKEN VESSELS
Music



TEDDY DIBIASSE
Speaker

Preregister at tinyurl.com/2018YEC (\$10) or at the door (\$15).
Contact the Evangelism Dept. at lbarris@mbcb.org for additional info.

REPLICATE MINISTRIES: D-GROUP TRAINING

COST: \$25 including lunch

REGISTRATION: www.tinyurl.com/dgrouptrain by January 25, 2019



LOCATIONS

TIME: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

FEBRUARY 11
Harrisburg Baptist Church
Tupelo, MS

FEBRUARY 12
First Baptist Church
Clinton, MS

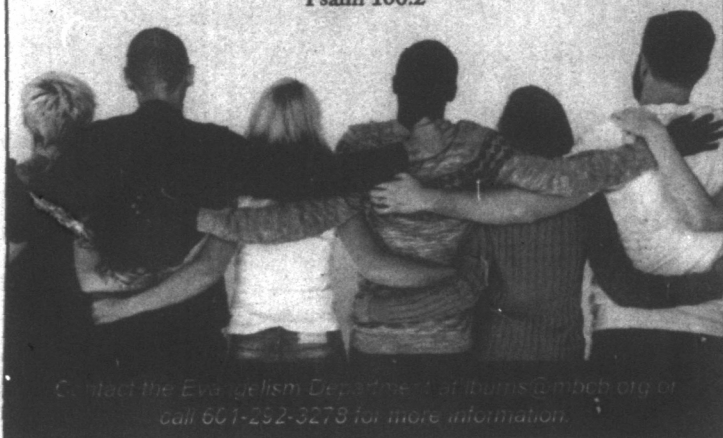
FEBRUARY 13
First Baptist Church
Gulfport, MS

Contact the Discipleship and Family
Ministry Department at 601.292.3284
or e-mail tpresson@mbcb.org for more
information

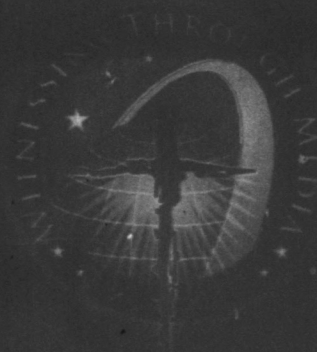
Called to Serve

STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
January 27-28, 2019
Country Woods Baptist Church • Byram, MS

"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing."
 Psalm 100:2



Contact the Evangelism Department at iturns@mbcb.org or call 601-292-3278 for more information.



WTM AWARDS COMPETITION

- Entries in the Awards Competition must have been produced or aired between Jan. 1, 2018 – Jan. 1, 2019
- Award Entry Deadline is Feb. 15, 2019
- Entry form will be online soon
- Entry fee is \$25.00 per entry

WTM BANQUET and WORKSHOPS

May 3-4, 2019

Morrison Heights Baptist Church | Clinton, MS

- Banquet and Workshop Registration Deadline is Apr. 19, 2019
- Registration for all activities (Banquet and Workshop) \$35 per person
- Friday Awards Banquet only or Saturday Workshop only \$25 per person

Sponsored by Communication Services
 More information coming soon!



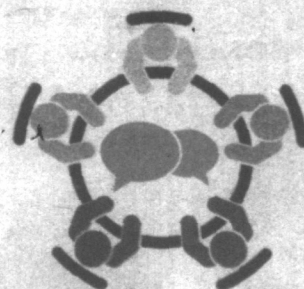
We're turning 75!

Celebrate with us the faithfulness of 75 years of Mississippi Baptists who have framed their legacies by utilizing the resources of the Foundation to invest in Great Commission work. Contact us with questions, invite us to share with your church family, or come see us in the display area during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 30.

We are thankful to be in ministry with you as
"laborers together with God."

601-292-3210 | www.msbbaptistfoundation.org | foundation@mbcb.org

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Bivocational Ministries Meeting

Monday, October 29, 2018

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Skyroom | Baptist Building

Contact Greg Barker at 601-292-3307 for more information.



**ORDER YOUR
NEW 2019
PRAYER GUIDE
TODAY!**

Contact the Cooperative
Program/Stewardship
Department at
lleavell@mbcb.org or
call 601-292-3347.



Small Church Youth Ministry Workshops

**6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.**

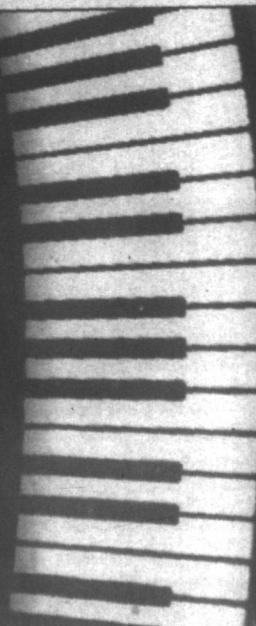
**10.25.18 | Forest Baptist Church
439 E. 1st St. | Forest, MS 39074**

**11.6.18 | First Baptist Church
520 W. Fox Ave. | Eupora, MS 39744**

**11.8.18 | Hillcrest Baptist Church
5950 Terry Rd. | Byram, MS 39272**

**Contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at
tpresson@mbcb.org for more info.
To register, visit
www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch.**

2019 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST AREA & STATE KEYBOARD FESTIVALS



JANUARY 24, 2019 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Area 2.....Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
Area 2..... FBC, West Point
Area 3.....FBC, Jackson
Area 4.....Fifteenth Avenue BC, Meridian
Area 5.....Main Street BC, Hattiesburg
Area 5..... FBC, Summit
Area 5.....FBC, Pascagoula
Area 5..... FBC, Laurel

JANUARY 25, 2019 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Area 1.....FBC, Senatobia

JANUARY 26, 2019 | 9:30 A.M.-NOON

Area 1.....Emmanuel BC, Grenada
Area 1..... North Greenwood BC, Greenwood

Contact the Church Music Department at 601-292-3272 or
e-mail Wyndy South at wsouth@mbcb.org for more info.



Mother/Daughter Weekends

Living W.I.L.D. Walking in Love Daily at Garaywa



November 2-3, 2018

Deadline to Register is October 17



November 9-10, 2018

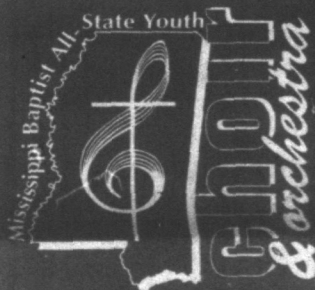
Deadline to Register is October 24

Mother/Daughter Overnights are for moms
(and mom substitutes) and their daughters in Grades 1-6.

Schedule: 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$55 per person

For more information, contact the WMU/WM at tbaldwin@mbcb.org
or call 601-292-3317.



2018 Auditions for the 2019 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th Graders involved
in the music ministry of Mississippi
Southern Baptist Churches

REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO
THE AUDITION!

OCTOBER 13, 2018
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Belden Baptist Church
Belden

OCTOBER 20, 2018
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Baptist Building
Jackson

OCTOBER 14, 2017
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Belden Baptist Church
Belden

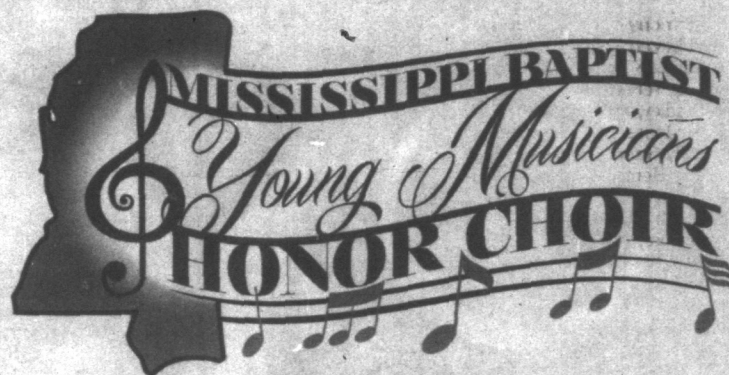
OCTOBER 21, 2018
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Baptist Building
Jackson

Contact Church Music at cwtaylor@mbcb.org or call 601-292-3267
for more information.



Mr. Luke Johnson
12/18/13
Parents: Lew & Brandi
Madagascar

Miss Elizabeth Ann
12/21/06
Parents: C & A
Restricted



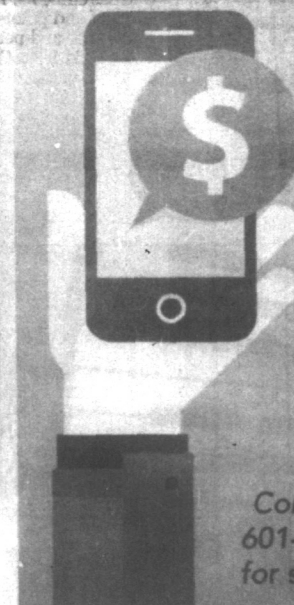
April 6-7, 2019

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH GRENADA

VIDEO Auditions are being accepted for the 2019
Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir for
children in grades 4-6.

Videos should be submitted by e-mail or text.
Deadline for submissions is November 15, 2018.

Contact Church Music at 601-292-3272 or Wyndy South at
wsouth@mbcb.org for additional information.



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601-292-3347 or lleavell@mbcb.org
for suggestions and additional info.

To Be Sent November 23, 2018, by the WMU Office

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is passed two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!
NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.
FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCE WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

HOUSE TOPS

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Harmony Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming and Family Life Center dedication, Oct. 14; service, 10 a.m.; Philip Bradley, speaker; Haven & Mendy Johnson, music.

► **Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 14; service, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner and singing; Scott Sones, speaker.

► **First Church, Winona:** Revival, Oct. 14 - 17; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., lunchtime service, noon, and 6:30 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Cole Pratt, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.

► **Shelton Church, Moselle:** 111th anniversary and home-

coming, Oct. 14; service, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; pastor Ken Tew, speaker; Byron Smith, music.

► **McAdams Church, Attala Association:** Homecoming, Oct. 14, 11 a.m.; George Mitchell, Sr. to share about his World War II service; bring-a-dish lunch to follow.

► **Montgomery Church, Lincoln Association:** Homecoming and 125th anniversary, Oct. 14; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Jim Futral, speaker; Larry Russell, pastor.

► **Beulah Memorial Church, Brownsville:** 200th anniversary, Oct. 14; service, 10 a.m., followed by lunch.

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PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or bennyhornsby.com

MS POSITIONS

PEACH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes by mail to: Adrian Overall 1855 Parks Place Rd. Como, MS. 38619 or email resumes to: jpatttridge@gmail.com.

SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAKE CO. IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTRY ASSISTANT. If interested please contact Sunrise Baptist Church at 601-298-9977 or email us at sunrisebc21@gmail.com for more info or application.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, OLIVE BRANCH, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please email resume to rcurlis@newprospect.net.

HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Persons interested may email resume to Corey Myers at cmymys913@gmail.com or mail to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601, attn: Corey Myers. Position description available upon request. Deadline to apply is December 1, 2018.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARROLL COUNTY, MS IS LOOKING FOR A BI-VOCATION OR FULL TIME PASTOR. Send resumes to P.O. Box 179, Carrollton, MS 38917 or email to providencebaptistchurchcarroll@gmail.com

WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG, MS, SEEKING A PART TIME YOUTH PASTOR. Email resume to arutland@woodlawnbtc.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED@NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTICELLO, MS BI-VOCATIONAL/PART TIME JOB. Sundays Only. If interested contact Office @601-587-2862 or send resume to 618 Carmel New Hope Rd, Monticello, MS 39654 or email: nhbc@wb4me.com. College students welcome to apply. References required.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Unity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, MS 39459. Or you may email them to ubc.resumes@yahoo.com. Either should be designated as Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

Human Dignity the subject of latest ERLC Academy

WASHINGTON (BP) — Human dignity, as a biblical doctrine, should shape how Christians view the unborn, elderly, and refugees as well as religious liberty, sexual assault, and civil discourse, Southern Baptist ethics leaders told an Oct. 2 gathering on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

The expansiveness of human dignity was set forth by staff members of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), headquartered in Nashville, in the final of three sessions this year of its annual ERLC Academy.

ERLC president Russell Moore and Daniel Darling, the commission's vice president for communications, addressed questions for an audience consisting primarily of congressional staffers and non-governmental organization workers.

The biblical view that all human beings are made in God's image demonstrates the purposefulness of their existence, Moore said.

"Humanity is not an accident," Moore told the gathering in the Cannon House of Representatives Office Building. "Humanity is not just a sum of biological processes. Humanity is a picture that God has embedded in the world of Himself and points us ultimately to the true and perfect humanity in the Lord Jesus Christ."

If the biblical view of human dignity is lost, "we start to think of people simply in terms of either their cognitive functioning or in terms of their sexual vitality or in terms of their power" in ways that are ultimately degrading, Moore told the mostly millennial generation audience.

In "dehumanizing other people, we end up dehumanizing ourselves," Moore noted, adding the result is "a kind of social Darwinism."

Moore and Darling — authors of the new book, *The Dignity Revolution: Reclaiming God's Rich Vision for Humanity* — addressed a number of topics as part of a format that consisted of questions from Travis Wussow, ERLC vice president for public policy, and the audience.

#MeToo

The "baseline issue" on sexual mistreatment of women, Moore declared, is "whether or not power itself means right." The pattern often has been "men using power in order to see women only in terms of their sexual availability or attractiveness, and often in ways that are abusive and violent and deadening to the soul."

In the church, that can create "a crisis of credibility," Moore warned. "[S]ometimes what tends to happen in churches is



HUMANS AS SPECIAL — Russell Moore (center), president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, joins Travis Wussow (left), ERLC vice president for public policy, and Daniel Darling, ERLC vice president for communications, in discussing human dignity during the ERLC Academy event Oct. 2 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. (BP photo)

when something awful happens, there's a sense of, 'Well, let's treat this as a public relations matter because we don't want people on the outside to think this is what Jesus is about.'

"That is what actually takes away the credibility of the church. Jesus never deals with sin within the church by covering it up but by exposing it."

Kavanaugh

Two biblical principles exist, Moore posited, in the debate over Brett Kavanaugh, the U.S. Supreme Court nominee who was accused of sexual assault en route to his confirmation Oct. 6.

Proverbs [17:5] says, "The one who justifies the wicked and the one who condemns the righteous are alike an abomination to the Lord," he told the audience.

The Kavanaugh situation is "fraught with ambiguity" because people don't know everything that happened, Moore said.

"I don't worry about the people who would say, 'I think she's telling the truth. Let's believe her.' I don't worry about the people who are saying, 'I think he has been unjustly accused because of the sort of track record we've seen elsewhere in his life.' Those are legitimate disagreements we can try to work on."

"What I'm worried about are the people who would say, 'Well, boys will be boys. This doesn't matter. It was a long time ago,' or the people who will say, 'Well regardless of whether it's true or not, somebody with that kind of track record shouldn't be on the court.'"

Public discourse

Darling said, "[W]e've stopped seeing people as ideological op-

ponents, and we now see them as mortal enemies."

Some of this results from arguments being "mediated through digital forms," Darling told the audience. "It's easy to get what I call 'keyboard courage' where we just hammer away at people because we don't see that person on the other side of Twitter as an actual human being. We see them as sort of an avatar to be crushed or the sum total of their arguments."

"I think for Christians it doesn't just matter that we speak out on an issue, but it matters how we speak," Darling counseled. "[C]ivility and courage actually can go together."

The helpless

Fear often is a controlling factor, Moore noted, in issues involving the elderly, immigrants, and refugees.

With regard to physician-assisted suicide, he said, "[T]here is a discounting of the elderly in our culture that I think is rooted fundamentally in fear of death." The roots of a "sort of euthanasia mentality" can be heard when people say, "I don't ever want to be a burden to my children," he said.

"In reality, God has created us to be completely dependent at the front end of our lives and to be completely dependent at the back end of our lives. We need other people to care for us."

Regarding immigrants and refugees, Moore said one of the matters "often at the heart" of the debates "is an appeal to fear." Christians can debate what are the best policies, he said, but "what we can't do, though, is to surrender to this idea that people are themselves a problem to be dealt with."

OFFERING

cont. from p. 1

"We celebrate this milestone with the North American Mission Board," said Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of WMU in Birmingham, Al. "We want everyone to have access to the Gospel. God's provision through this significant offering will enable Southern Baptists to faithfully tell the story of Jesus in North America."



WISDOM-MARTIN

Meanwhile, leaders at the International Mission Board (IMB) of the SBC in Richmond, Va., announced churches gave \$158.9 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions — the second-highest ever received for that offering.

"We praise the Lord and thank Southern Baptist churches who have again generously demonstrated their faithfulness in undergirding the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth," said Clyde Meador, IMB interim president.



MEADOR

WMU also promotes the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. "The breadth of missionary opportunity around the globe must be matched by a God-given vision to reach the lost," Wisdom-Martin said. "The totals of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering demonstrate an obedience to the Great Commission."

"We rejoice knowing these simple dollars will turn into seeds planted for the Gospel. We pray for a rich harvest among



SAVING LIVES, SOULS — Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support IMB missionaries such as Larry Pepper (center), who was a NASA flight surgeon before God put him on a different trajectory of working with the IMB at hospitals in Africa. (IMB photo)



SERVING AT HOME — Kempton Turner baptizes an unidentified new believer at City of Joy Fellowship Church in East St. Louis, Ill., an area known for its stubborn poverty and social ills. Turner, a native of East St. Louis, planted the church with help from the North American Mission Board. (NAMB photo)

the peoples of the world."

The highest LMCO total was recorded in 2015, when Southern Baptists gave \$165.8 million.

The offering is named for Charlotte Diggs "Lottie" Moon, who was an early champion of women's right to serve as missionaries and personally spent

40 years as a Southern Baptist missionary in China.

For more AABO information, visit anniearmstrong.com/. For more LMCO information, visit imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering.

Both offerings are also supported by gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

BIBLIOPHER

OR UEO IEO IRUW XR UW, WYIWMX

XAW NEXAWV PASIA AEXA HWOX UW

TVEP ASU: EOT S PSBB VESHW ASU DM

EX XAW BEHX TEJ.

QRAO HSY: NRVXJ-NRDV

Clue: T = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians 5:6

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

True Compassion • Galatians 6:1-18

I am so thankful to those who serve in our military. They are all heroes to me! The soldiers and their families sacrifice so much for our freedom, and my heart breaks for them when someone is killed while serving our country. While most are the result of enemy forces, sadly some deaths are incurred by friendly fire.

Recently, we have seen godly leaders, from the Southern Baptist Convention, in the news because of poor choices that led to sin. When Christians hear this kind of news, what do we tend to do? Sadly, we often destroy our own, our wounded soldiers, with the weapon of gossip, then cast them aside, and proudly declare that we could never and would never do what they have done. Paul provides a different perspective. He encourages us to show true compassion.

Guards (Galatians 6:1-5)

Paul called on the Galatian believers to seek to gently restore other believers who have fallen into sin. He wrote, "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness" (v. 1a). Today, we as mature believers must carefully seek to restore other believers who succumb to sin. What does that look like? Paul encourages the reader to "Bear one another's burdens"

(v. 2). We should listen carefully when a brother or sister in Christ is struggling. Then we need to give wise counsel that may dissuade sinful behavior. When a person falls, we need to be the people that pick him up and walk with him toward restoration.

While Paul encouraged the Galatians to restore instead of destroy fallen believers, he also warned the Galatians of their own fallibility. Paul wanted the Galatians to recognize their own weaknesses instead of pridefully comparing themselves to those who had fallen. Perhaps Paul was thinking of an Old Testament proverb, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud" (Proverbs 16:18-19). Believers are warned to be careful lest they too fall, especially safeguarding themselves from spiritual pride. Folks let's be honest. Not one of us is infallible. We are all one bad choice away from de-

stroying our lives with sin. Let's heed Paul's warning and safeguard our lives from spiritual pride and sin.

Stewards (Galatians 6:6-10)

Paul wrote, "The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him" (v. 6). October is set aside as Pastor Appreciation Month. Perhaps one way to follow Paul's words is to encourage

our pastors this month. Tell your pastor how much you appreciate him, and don't forget his wife! I am so very thankful for my pastor, George Banister, and his

wife Lisa. They mean so much to our community, our church, and to me. Encourage your pastoral staff and thank them for their efforts. Ministry is hard so bless them for their efforts.

Paul challenged his readers to be good stewards, providing for the needs of their leaders, continuing to meet the needs of others, and working for the good of others. He writes, "So then, while we have oppor-

tunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (v. 10). This nation has become so angry and divided. Let's choose to be different. Let's do good things for others - inside and outside our churches.

Proclaimers (Galatians 6:14-15)

In his letter to the churches of Galatia, Paul declared the authenticity of the gospel, shed light on perversions of the gospel, and confronted the Judaizers. He took down the idea that people could do anything, including circumcision, to earn salvation and focused his readers on faith in Christ instead.

As Paul concluded his letter, he explained that his goal in life was to brag on the cross of Christ and the difference the cross had made in Paul's life. He wrote, "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (v. 14). Paul did not want his life to point to anyone or anything except Jesus and the gospel. In response to Paul's letter, ask yourself this question, "Does my life point others to the world or to Jesus?"

McGraw is a NAMB-endorsed chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary and member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Explore the Bible
with Liz McGraw

The Object of Our Prayer • Matthew 6:9a

During the three years that the Apostles spent with Jesus, they asked Him specifically, "Lord, increase our faith," (Luke 17:5) and "Teach us to pray." Luke 11:1 reads, "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." (KJV). Jesus taught what we call the Lord's Prayer or the Model Prayer. For this and the next six lessons, we will examine the Lord's Prayer a little bit each week.

Jesus began both the Matthew 6:9 and the Luke 11:1 prayers, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name," (KJV). God is identified as our Father. How we view God affects the way we pray. How one views his or her own father can affect how we view God as well. If you, like me, had a godly father who served the Lord and loved you, your view of God is also that of a good Father. If your father was not godly, you may have a harder time understanding that God is the perfect Father.

Just as our conversations are greatly affected by our perceptions of those with whom we speak, our prayers with the Father are molded by our perception of God.

Some people approach God with fear and trembling, hoping they pray the right words (Matthew 6:7) so that their prayers are successful. Others look at God as a kindly grandfather while some see God as One who dispenses whatever they wish. How we approach God should be based on what He has revealed about Himself in the Bible. The Word of God presents a clear picture of our almighty and caring Father.

Psalms 103:3-5 teaches that the Lord is a loving Father, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's," (KJV). James 1:17 echoes this, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above," (KJV). In other

words, God loves us and desires a personal relationship with us, forgiving us and redeeming our lives. Our God wants to bless us as a good father blesses his children.

In Luke 11:11-13 Jesus asks, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much

more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (KJV). Jesus started the Model Prayer with our acknowledgment of

God as our Father.

Psalms 103:11-13 reveals more, "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him," (KJV). God separates us from our sins as far as the east is from the west. Unlike north and south, east and west never meet. At the north and south poles, north and south meet, a finite distance. East and West are infinitely apart, as are our sins in Christ. The Hebrew word, *Rahk-ahm*, translated in verse 13 in the King James version, *pieth*, also means to love, love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection, and have compassion for. That sounds like a godly father to me.

Our Father is in heaven, and in the hearts of those who are His. Isaiah 57:15 reads, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones," (KJV). As we pray, think of the Father dwelling in the hearts of the contrite and humble. He is in heaven, and with His children as well. We serve a magnificent God.

Henson is a member of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon.

Bible Studies for Life

with Rick Henson



KELLEY

cont. from p. 1

"Dr. Kelley has been committed to training and equipping young ministerial students all of his life, first as a professor of evangelism and then serving as the longest-tenured president of our institution. We applaud him," Cox said on behalf of the board. "I think the future is bright for him and [his wife] Rhonda and the future is bright for our seminary."

In his retirement years, which will be spent primarily in Fairhope, AL, Kelley plans to begin a renewed focus on research into the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) evangelism issues. Kelley has said he believes the decline in baptisms represents a profound crisis for Southern Baptists, and that he intends to write and speak on evangelism and discipleship with a frequency and fervor that simply was not possible while leading the seminary.

"We know that he will be an ambassador for NOBTS and con-

tributing to Southern Baptist life through his research and writing on evangelism," Cox said.

The trustees enacted the seminary's presidential search protocol during their fall meeting Oct. 3, naming Kelley chancellor as required by the school's bylaws that state the office of president must be vacated during the replacement search.

The seminary's bylaws call for the trustee chairman to appoint a committee with 11 voting members including the board chairman, the immediate past

chairman, one faculty member, one student, and seven other board members. Trustees amended the bylaws in order to appoint two additional trustees as alternates should search committee members become unable to serve.

"By making the announcement now the trustees have a reasonable chance to have someone in place by the start of the next academic year," Kelley said.

The seminary's board of trustees unanimously elected Kelley as the eighth NOBTS

president in 1996 following a 20-year tenure by Landrum P. Leavell II. A professor of evangelism at NOBTS since August 1983, Kelley assumed the office of president on March 1, 1996.

NOBTS will devote the spring edition of Vision magazine to the contributions Kelley and his wife Rhonda have made to the seminary and throughout the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

To read Kelley's retirement letter, visit tinyurl.com/kelley-retirement.

Just for the Record



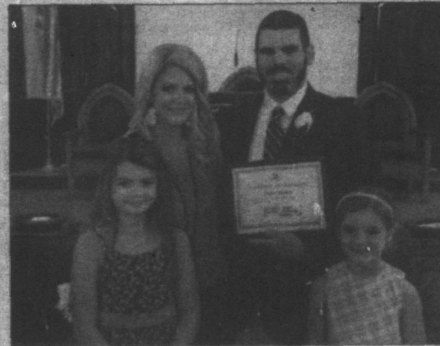
FIRST CHURCH, LUMBERTON, Joy Club toured Promise Land Journey in Collinsville on Sept. 27.



The student ministry from **NOLA CHURCH, LAWRENCE COUNTY,** went to Dickerson Place Sept. 28 for a bonfire, games, and worship. Shown are the students with Keith Stovall, worship pastor.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, held deacon ordination on Sept. 23. Pictured are (from left) Pastor Gary Rivers; Chris Ryals and wife Laura; Luke Howell and wife Aubrie; and Richie Ferguson and wife Tiffany.



CARROLLTON CHURCH, CARROLLTON, held deacon ordination on Sept. 23. Pictured are Dustin Haddon and family Tori, Presley, and Harper. Ed McDaniel, interim pastor.



HARMONY CHURCH, CRYSTAL SPRINGS, licensed Zach Ainsworth to the gospel ministry. He is a student at Blue Mountain College. Shown are Ainsworth and pastor Jonathan Sherwin.



BREWER CHURCH, SHANNON, ordained Brad Murphy as deacon. Shown are Keith Wiseman, Marvin Murphy, Charlotte Murphy, Tricia Murphy, Murphy, and pastor Tim Tutor.



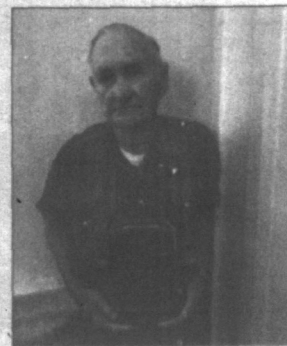
NEW ZION CHURCH, BRAXTON, collected 2221 items for the Simpson County Association food pantry. This was a joint effort with the community and congregation. Children and adults worked two Saturdays distributing grocery paper bags for filling and then retrieving the bags.



ACKERMAN CHURCH, ACKERMAN, recently held a note burning celebration for their Family Life Center. Shown are pastor Danny Irvin, Wayne McLeod, Ethelyn Prewitt, Benny Graves, and Perry King.



FIRST CHURCH, WINONA, ordained Michael Maloney as deacon Sept. 9. Shown are Glenn Bourne, Charlie Parkerson, David Pratt, Bennie Watson, Maloney, Hattie Frank Maloney, and pastor Jay Anderson.



FIRST CHURCH, FLORA, recently recognized J.W. Richardson for 50 consecutive years teaching Sunday School.